

From: vanharvey2 HARVEY
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/27/02 1:53pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Over the last eight years, I have, by accident, become a software developer.

I came into PC's as a sales manager during the time before Microsoft dominated the business software suite's. I began working with Lotus & Borland's products, and then found Microsoft's. I checked them all out, and found that Microsoft's had more of the features and support that I wanted & needed. They enabled me to help my salespeople to make more effective and productive use of their time, in more ways, than any other product available. I became so hooked on being able to unlock people's productivity by fiddling with software code, that I became an Instructor and then fulltime developer.

Through the years, I've found that Microsoft's products consistently give me more of what I need, than any other product out there, and as a result, my professional standing, my income, and my families security, has increased dramatically as well.

That professional and financial security was rocked when the DOJ won it's initial case against Microsoft. My entire industry was affected immediately, and as we in the software industry know, the DotCom bust followed as a direct result.

I resent that my government precipitated this calamity, from an effort to prop up those software companies that I and most of those I work with, try our best not to have to use; because their products are inferior, and their policies are restrictive and "thuggish" in dealing with developers.

We, the software Developers and users, didn't ask Government to step in and "protect us" by crippling Microsoft - a bunch of 2nd rate companies did, and it was for their betterment, not ours. We use Microsoft because we have decided that their products make our lives and professions, more successful.

Please get out of their way.

If Microsoft stumbles and begins to crank out inferior products, you can be sure that we'll jump ship quickly, (and one of us will create the software that the rest jump to), and we won't need the Government to tell us there's a problem. We don't need the Government forcing us to use inferior products made by inferior companies with inferior bully management, when Microsoft has what we want in the way we need it - now.

Microsoft has a right to design it's software, the way they choose, and we have a right to choose it, if we choose. As an American company, Microsoft has a Right to its property, and it is the government's job is to protect that right, not to take it away.

Please let Microsoft alone, and settle this case quickly.

Sincerely,
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